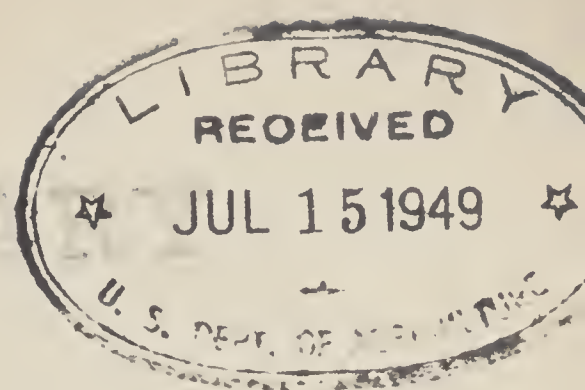


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Issued February 9, 1911.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Circular No. 77.

H. W. HENSHAW, Chief of Bureau.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA
ON THE
ALASKA GAME LAW.
1910.

BY
WALTER E. CLARK,
Governor of Alaska.

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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Circular Nò. 77.

H. W. HENSHAW, Chief of Bureau.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA GAME LAW.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
Juneau, Alaska, December 8, 1910.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report on the administration of the Alaska game law (act approved May 11, 1908), and the regulations thereunder, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910.

Respectfully yours,

WALTER E. CLARK, *Governor.*

The SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCTION.

The experience derived from the first year's administration of the law served to point out some serious defects in the act in question and the first regulations promulgated under the act. The regulations were amended to some extent in July of the present year, the most important changes being in the season for deer in southeastern Alaska, a reduction in the number which may be killed by any one person in any one year, and in the prohibition of market selling of venison in 1911. The snowfall in southeastern Alaska last winter was so phenomenally heavy that the deer died in large numbers of starvation. Some persons estimate that from 80 to 90 per cent of all the deer died.

Several other kinds of game animals in Alaska, including moose in the Kenai Peninsula, are believed to be increasing in numbers.

AMENDMENT OF LAW NEEDED.¹

No attempt has been made to secure amendments to the game law, but it is now deemed highly important that the matter be brought to the attention of the Congress. The needs regarding both the law and the regulations under the law have been fully discussed in earlier reports to the Secretary of Agriculture. Among the very serious

¹ A bill (H. R. 28628) including this amendment was introduced on Dec. 9, 1910.

defects in the act of May 11, 1908, which can be remedied only by the Congress, is the failure to provide any open season whatever for game birds north of latitude 62°. Thus probably two-thirds of the whole area of Alaska is closed to the legal shooting of birds. As this immense area includes the two largest towns in Alaska, as well as a large number of smaller settlements, and as the region, moreover, abounds in various kinds of grouse, waterfowl, and shore birds, violations of the law are the rule. For officers charged with the enforcement of the law it is almost hopeless to attempt the conviction of violators of the law in the great region referred to. This is particularly unfortunate in a territory where the preponderance of public sentiment in regard to other provisions of the game protection act is notably on the side of the law. The region where there is no open season for birds comprises probably not less than 375,000 square miles, and, generally speaking, is sparsely settled. When fresh meat, other than game meat, is obtainable at all, the prices are extremely high. Under the circumstances the lack of an open season for game birds is generally regarded as an absurd condition. Without doubt the failure to provide an open season was due to an oversight when the law was framed.

ENFORCEMENT.

Big game hunters from the United States and from foreign countries have lately been attracted by the Alaska field in increasing numbers. The law and the regulations have been enforced with pretty uniform success in the Kenai Peninsula, where nearly all the "outside" sportsmen hunt.

Three game wardens, stationed respectively at Seward, Kenai, and Circle, have been employed regularly; and two others, to look after violations of the law in the Alaska Peninsula and southeastern Alaska districts, respectively, have been employed from time to time, as the available amount of public funds would permit. The appropriation of \$10,000 for the enforcement of the game law is inadequate. The amount should be increased annually to at least \$15,000, making it possible to employ five or more game wardens permanently.

The state of public sentiment in Alaska in regard to the protection of game is excellent, but respect for the existing game law would be greatly increased if some of the more serious defects were corrected.

HUNTING LICENSES.

In the fiscal year 1910 the number of nonresident hunters obtaining hunting licenses was 23, of whom 12 were citizens of the United

States and 11 were residents of foreign countries. In the fiscal year 1909 the number of nonresident hunters taking out hunting licenses was 14, all of whom were citizens of the United States. No resident of a foreign country took out a hunting license until July, 1909, but since that time 14 have done so. Residents of Alaska are not required to obtain hunting licenses even in the Kenai Peninsula.

The issuance of hunting licenses in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910, is shown in detail in the following table:

Hunting licenses.

No. of license.	Date.	Residence of holder.	Fee.
29	July 8, 1909	Resident of foreign country.....	\$100
30	.....do.....	do.....	100
31	.....do.....	do.....	100
32	.....do.....	do.....	100
33	July 26, 1909	Citizen of United States.....	50
34	.....do.....	do.....	50
35	.....do.....	do.....	50
42	Aug. 9, 1909	.....do.....	50
43	.....do.....	Resident of foreign country.....	100
44	Aug. 10, 1909	Citizen of United States.....	50
52	Aug. 12, 1909	Resident of foreign country.....	100
53	.....do.....	do.....	100
54	Aug. 24, 1909	Citizen of United States.....	50
55	.....do.....	do.....	50
74	Apr. 12, 1910	.....do.....	50
79	May 9, 1910	.....do.....	50
80	.....do.....	do.....	50
81	May 23, 1910	Resident of foreign country.....	100
82	.....do.....	do.....	100
83	May 25, 1910	Citizen of United States.....	50
84	June 1, 1910	.....do.....	50
88	June 13, 1910	Resident of foreign country.....	100
89	.....do.....	do.....	100
Total.....			1,700

SHIPPING LICENSES.

The number of special moose-shipping licenses issued by this office in the last fiscal year was 18, to 10 different persons, of whom 4 were citizens of the United States and 6 were residents of foreign countries. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year 14 hunting licenses were issued, exactly the same as the number in the corresponding quarter of last year. The number of shipping licenses of all kinds issued to October 1, 1910, was 30, as against 15 in the corresponding period of last year. In October of the present year 9 shipping licenses were issued, as against 11 in October, 1909.

Special moose-shipping licenses were issued during the last fiscal year, as follows:

Special moose-shipping licenses.

No. of license.	Date.	Residence of holder.	Fee.
36	July 26, 1909	Citizen of United States.....	\$150
37	do.	do.....	150
38	do.	do.....	150
39	do.	do.....	150
40	do.	do.....	150
45	Aug. 10, 1909	do.....	150
46	do.	do.....	150
47	do.	do.....	150
48	Aug. 12, 1909	Resident of foreign country.....	150
49	do.	do.....	150
50	do.	do.....	150
51	do.	do.....	150
56	Oct. 4, 1909	do.....	150
57	do.	do.....	150
58	do.	do.....	150
59	do.	do.....	150
60	do.	do.....	150
61	do.	do.....	150
Total.....			2,700

The shipping licenses for game and game trophies issued during the last fiscal year, other than special moose-shipping licenses, are shown in the following table:

General shipping licenses.

No. of license.	Date.	Game or trophy.	Fee.
27	July 1, 1909	1 brown bear skin.....	\$5
28	July 1, 1909	1 pair caribou horns.....	10
41	Aug. 8, 1909	1 brown bear skin.....	5
62	Oct. 13, 1909	do.....	5
63	Oct. 23, 1909	do.....	5
64	do.	1 pair sheep horns.....	10
65	do.	1 brown bear skin.....	5
66	Oct. 25, 1909	do.....	5
67	Dec. 4, 1909	2 sea-lion skins.....	(1)
68	Jan. 10, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	5
69	Jan. 27, 1910	1 pair caribou horns.....	10
70	Feb. 23, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	5
71	Mar. 23, 1910	do.....	5
72	Mar. 31, 1910	do.....	5
73	do.	do.....	5
75	Apr. 25, 1910	do.....	5
76	May 9, 1910	1 sheep head.....	10
77	do.	do.....	10
78	do.	do.....	10
85	June 1, 1910	1 caribou head.....	10
86	do.	Heads: 4 deer, 2 caribou, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 2 brown bear, 1 moose ²	40
87	June 9, 1910	do.....	40
90	June 15, 1910	1 pair caribou horns.....	10
Total.....			220

¹ No fee.

² Killed north of 62°.

RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of this office from the administration of the game law, consisting of hunting licenses and shipping licenses, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910, was \$4,620. More than half of the

receipts came in during the first quarter, which is the hunting season for big game. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year the receipts from all sources have amounted to \$3,450, which is to be compared with \$2,870 in the corresponding quarter of last year.

The foregoing statements in regard to the issuance of shipping licenses do not indicate, of course, the number of game trophies which were actually killed, or shipped from the Territory. Hunters holding hunting licenses did not ship, it is presumed, trophies of all animals killed by them.

GAME OR TROPHIES SHIPPED FROM ALASKA.

The following table is intended to show the number and kind of trophies actually shipped from the Territory in the fiscal year 1910, as indicated by clearances through the customs ports:

Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910.

No. of hunting or shipping license.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
6	July 5, 1909	1 brown bear skin.....	Alaska.
12	Oct. 11, 1909	.....do.....	United States.
48	.....do.....	1 moose.....	Foreign country.
49	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
50	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
51	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
52	.....do.....	3 sheep.....	Do.
53	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
43	.....do.....	.....do.....	United States.
46	.....do.....	1 moose.....	Do.
47	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
65	Oct. 23, 1909	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
63	.....do.....	.....do.....	Alaska.
64	.....do.....	1 pair sheep horns.....	Do.
55	.....do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	United States.
66	Nov. 27, 1909	.....do.....	Do.
21	Dec. 29, 1909	1 glacier bear.....	Do.
68	Jan. 10, 1910	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
71	Apr. 8, 1910	.....do.....	Do.
74	June 3, 1910	2 blue bear skins.....	Do.

A few shipments of game trophies were made for scientific purposes, under permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, as follows:

Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for scientific purposes during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910.

Date.	Collector or shipper.	Specimens.	Where shipped.
Sept. 9, 1909	University of California.....	2 brown bear skins.....	San Francisco.
Sept. 24, 1909	John Sparr.....	4 live moose.....	Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.
Dec. 24, 1909	University of California.....	7 deer heads.....	Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.
June 19, 1910	Dr. Victors.....	3 brown bears.....	United States.

When the compilation of actual shipments of game and game trophies through the customs ports was undertaken, after the fiscal year had closed, it was found to be probable that a large number of trophies, consisting of heads and the hides of some of the smaller animals had been shipped as baggage. The baggage of passengers traveling between Alaska and the States is not subject to examination; so it is probable that a considerable number of trophies were shipped as personal effects and that no record of these shipments appears in the custom-house manifest. In the current fiscal year an effort will be made to obtain a report and more careful record of actual shipments of game trophies through Alaska ports.

In Appendix A of this report appear the names and addresses of the several game wardens and of the licensed guides for Kenai Peninsula.

In Appendix B¹ is a copy of the circular of information in regard to the game law and regulations recently issued from this office for general distribution.

APPENDIX A.

List of game wardens in Alaska.

Name.	Residence.	Appointed.
Christopher C. Shea.....	Seward, Alaska.....	July 3, 1909.
A. R. Garner.....	Fairbanks, Alaska.....	July 26, 1909.
P. F. Vian.....	Kenai, Alaska.....	July 10, 1909.
Adam Schneider ¹	Juneau, Alaska.....	Oct. 1, 1910.
J. C. Tolman ¹	Kodiak, Alaska.....	Sept. 15, 1910.

¹ Temporary.

List of licensed guides, Kenai Peninsula.

Name.	Residence.	Appointed.
H. G. Singer.....	Kenai.....	Aug. 23, 1910.
Geo. W. Kuppler.....	do.....	Do.
Dimidoff Mamala.....	do.....	Do.
H. E. Ellsworth.....	Seward.....	Sept. 3, 1910.
H. E. Revell.....	do.....	Do.
Charles Ensweiler.....	do.....	Do.
George Sexton.....	do.....	Do.
W. G. Weaver.....	do.....	Do.
B. F. Sweasey.....	do.....	Do.
Thomas Tessie.....	do.....	Do.
Math Yuth.....	Kenai.....	Oct. 8, 1910.
Inokenty Shangay.....	do.....	Do.
Pitka Bakoff.....	do.....	Do.
F. W. Johanson.....	do.....	Do.
W. J. McKeon.....	do.....	Do.
Andrew Simons.....	Seward.....	Nov. 10, 1910.
George Dreibelbis.....	do.....	Aug. 6, 1910.

¹ Appendix B is omitted in view of the fact that the provisions of the present game law may be changed by a bill now pending in Congress.